



U.S. Department of Justice

**Craig S. Morford
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Michigan**

***Suite 2001
211 West Fort Street
Detroit, Michigan 48226-3277
Fax: (313) 226-3561***

For Immediate Release:

Contact: Shannon Bass (313) 226-9530
Dawn Clenney (313) 965-2323

February 14, 2005

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Event: | Sentencing |
| Defendants: | Wilbourne A. Kelley, III, 69, of Detroit Barbara Kelley, 57, of Detroit |

Wilbourne A. Kelley, III, 69, of Detroit, was sentenced today by United States District Judge Marianne O. Battani to serve 44 months in prison followed by three years of supervised release, to pay a fine of \$30,000, and restitution of \$113,413.66 to Wayne County's Government as a result of his September 27, 2004, conviction on nine counts of conspiracy, extortion, Federal program bribery, and making false statements to Federal agents, announced U.S. Attorney Craig S. Morford. Morford was joined in the announcement by Special Agent in Charge Daniel Roberts of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Judge Battani also sentenced Kelley's wife, Barbara Kelley, 57, of Detroit, to 41 months in prison, followed by three years of supervised release, to pay a fine of \$30,000, and restitution of \$91,516 to Wayne County for her convictions on conspiracy, extortion, Federal program bribery, money laundering, and making false statements to Federal agents.

Wilbourne Kelley worked for Wayne County government from 1985 until June, 1999. From 1987 until 1999, Kelley was Wayne County's Deputy Chief Operating Officer assigned to the Office of the County Executive. In that capacity, Kelley was responsible for the operation's of Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport ("Detroit Metro"), which the county owned and operated. From 1989 until 1997, Kelley was Assistant Wayne County CEO/Airport Operations and Major County Construction. Before that, Kelley, was Wayne County's Deputy Director, Department of Public Services.

The indictment charged that Kelley, while a public employee, and his wife conspired to wrongfully obtain money and property from companies which did business with Detroit Metro. The indictment also charged the defendants with extortion, attempted extortion, and accepting

bribe payments in connection with federally-funded government programs. Barbara Kelley was convicted of money laundering. Both defendants were also convicted of making false statements to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

In sentencing Wilbourne Kelley, Judge Battani noted his “total disregard” for the law, his “shocking greed,” and that as a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, he should have “known better.” She also stressed that white-collar crime is “heinous” and that prison sentences tend to deter others from public corruption.

In sentencing Barbara Kelley, Judge Battani observed that she was “very much involved” in the criminal scheme caused by her “blatant greed.” The judge also observed that although she was an educated person who had attended divinity school, Barbara Kelley’s crimes were no different than a street criminal who conducted an armed robbery.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Christopher Varner and Kathryn McCarthy. Morford commended the special agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation for their work in this investigation.